

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

Bill # **1017**: An Act Concerning Election Administration.

Bill # **6578**: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

I am writing in support of:

1. Bill number **1017: An Act Concerning Election Administration** to make the absentee ballot drop boxes permanent and enable voters to request absentee ballots via an online application; and
2. Bill number **6578: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process** for automatic voter registration at the DMV and to restore voting rights to parolees.

It is crucial to our democracy that we enfranchise as many voters as possible. Each of the proposed bills will help make voting safer and easier.

In particular:

1. Enabling online requests for absentee ballots is just common sense. Voters who need an absentee ballot should not have to jump through hoops to get one. Not everyone has a printer and waiting for the application to come by mail is an unnecessary and cumbersome step in the process.
2. Drop boxes were a godsend in the last election. I worried about an overwhelmed USPS and appreciated the secure drop box behind Town Hall.
3. Automatic voter registration is good policy. While we already have it at the DMV, this should be expanded and codified.
4. Parolees have served their time and should be allowed to vote. We want to engage parolees in society and encourage their participation.

Thank you for supporting these important bills.

Sincerely,
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